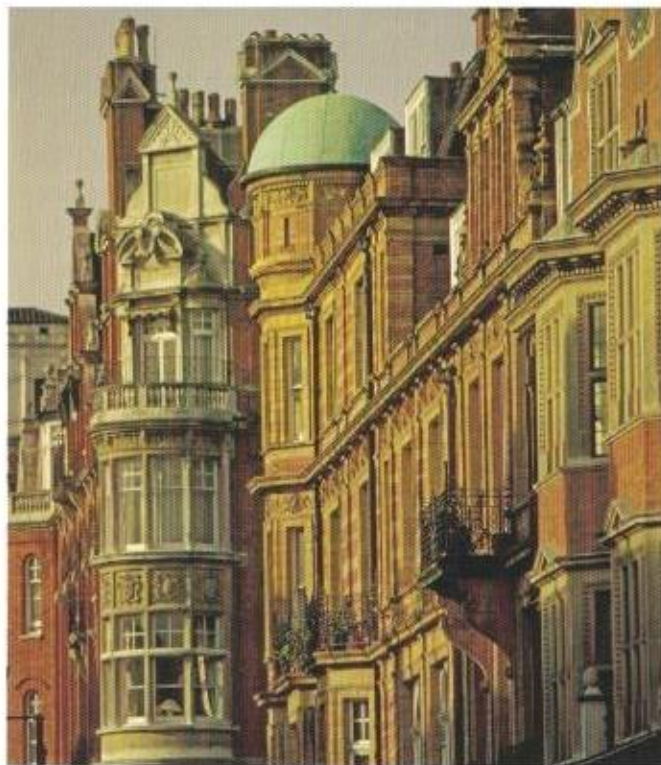


wedding, Charlotte came to see Elizabeth.

'Please write often,' said Charlotte. 'And will you come and see me?'

Elizabeth could not refuse, although she did not look forward to the visit.

'My father and sister are coming in March to Hunsford. I hope you will come too.'



A letter came from Jane in London. Jane had not had a reply to her letter from Caroline Bingley, so she had visited her house in Grosvenor Street. Jane wrote:

I did not think Caroline was feeling well, but she was glad to see me. She was cross because I had not told her I was coming to London. So, I was right. My last letter never reached her. Mr Bingley is busy with Mr Darcy, though they hardly ever see him. Miss Darcy was coming to dinner that evening. My visit was not long, as Caroline and her sister were going out.

Elizabeth shook her head. 'Bingley will not find out from his sister that Jane is in town,' she thought.

February passed and Jane saw nothing of Bingley or his sister. Finally Caroline Bingley visited Jane at the Gardiners, and Jane could no longer hide from the truth. Another letter arrived for Elizabeth.

My dearest Lizzy, you were right. Caroline has no feelings for me. She visited yesterday, and stayed a very short time. She did not say she wanted to see me again. I know that she wishes to protect her brother. But she need not worry. If he cared about me, we would have met by now. He knows I am in London, I am sure, from something she said. Write soon. I am looking forward to hearing about Hunsford when you are there.

Mrs Gardiner did not need to worry about Mr Wickham. Elizabeth wrote to tell her that he now admired a young lady called Miss King. Miss King had one great attraction that Elizabeth did not have – a fortune of ten thousand pounds. Elizabeth accepted that he could not marry someone with no money. She did not approve of her friend Charlotte Lucas's reasons for marrying Mr Collins; but she was not so hard on Mr Wickham.